

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 10618 311349Z
ACTION SS-25

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R 301947Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9339
INFO USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 10618

EXDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC PARM PORG UNSC SF NI FR
SUBJ: SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR PROBLEM

REF: (A) STATE 77914; (B) PARIS 10264

1. SUMMARY: ON MARCH 28 FRENCH MFA MADE DEMARCHE TO
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SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR LOUIS PIENAAR URGING THAT THE
SAG COMPLY WITH THE US REQUEST OF SIGNING THE NPT AND
ADOPTING FULL FUEL CYCLE SAFEGUARDS. THE MFA ALSO
ADVISED THAT FRANCE IS INTERESTED IN COMPLETING THE
KOEBERG REACTOR CONTRACT, WOULD JOIN THE US IN A VETO OF
A SECURITY COUNCIL BAN BUT WOULD NOT VETO SUCH A MEASURE
ALONE, AND WOULD PROBABLY HONOR A SECURITY

COUNCIL BAN ON NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH THE SAG. END SUMMARY.

2. MFA NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION ADVISER JACOMET GAVE EMBOFF DETAILED REVIEW OF /RENCH DEMARCHE TO SAG. ON MARCH 28 JACOMET, ACTING AT THE SPECIFIC REQUEST OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER, CALLED IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR PIENAAR FOR DISCUSSION ON SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES AND FRENCH INTERESTS. JACOMET SAID THAT MEETINGS BETWEEN THE TWO SHOULD BE OF A CONTINUING NATURE AND THAT THERE SHOULD DEVELOP SOON A FULL DIALOGUE ON MUTUAL INTERESTS IN NUCLEAR AFFAIRS.

3. JACOMET BEGAN HIS DEMARCHE BY STATING THAT THE GOF REALIZES THERE IS A SERIOUS RISK OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESTRICTING NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA. FRANCE IS PREPARED TO JOIN THE US IN VETOING SUCH SC ACTION, BUT FRANCE WOULD NOT VETO SUCH SC ACTION ALONE. HOWEVER, THE SAG SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THE KOEBERG REACTOR CONTRACT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO FRANCE AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED. US SUPPORT IS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE REACTORS; AND TO GET THE NECESSARY US SUPPORT, FRANCE BELIEVES THAT THE SAG MUST AGREE TO SIGN THE NPT AND ACCEPT FULL SCOPE SAFEGUARDS. IN THE FRENCH VIEW, THE USG HAS NO WAY AROUND THESE TWO STEPS DUE TO THE RECENT US NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION LEGISLATION. CONFIDENTIAL

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THE SAG AMBASSADOR SAID HE WOULD INFORM HIS GOVERNMENT OF GOF VIEWS AND REPORT ANY REACTIONS.

4. PIENAAR BEGAN HIS PERSONAL COMMENTS BY NOTING THAT IT WAS MOST IMPORTANT THAT THE GOF AND THE SAG HAVE A CONTINUING DIALOGUE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES; THE SAG ADMITTEDLY HAS A REPUTATION OF BEING STUBBORN BUT IT IS ALWAYS OPEN TO DISCUSSION. SUCH DISCUSSIONS SHOULD PROBABLY TAKE PLACE IN PRETORIA. FOR THE SAG, THE KOEBERG REACTORS ARE TO BE UNDER IAEA SAFEGUARDS; OTHER NUCLEAR FACILITIES HAVE BEEN CLEARLY EXPLAINED BY THE SAG TO BE FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES. IT IS NOT AT ALL CLEAR TO THE SAG WHY IT MUST ACCEPT FULL FUEL CYCLE SAFEGUARDS. PIENAAR THEN ASKED IF FRANCE WOULD COMPLETE THE KOEBERG REACTORS OR RESPECT A SECURITY COUNCIL BAN ON COOPERATION SHOULD IT MATERIALIZE. JACOMET SAID THAT FRANCE HAS RESPECTED SC ACTION IN THE PAST AND WOULD PROBABLY DO SO IN THE FUTURE. PIENAAR CONCLUDED THE DISCUSSION BY ASKING THAT JACOMET ADVISE HIM AS TO WHETHER THE GOF WOULD COMPLETE THE KOEBERG REACTOR CONTRACT IF THE SECURITY COUNCIL BAN MATERIALIZED.

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Message Attributes

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